



WISCONSIN REGULATORY DIGEST

A Publication of the DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING FOR THE PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE

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New Caregiver Law - 1997 WI Act 27 (Biennial Budget)

On October 1, 1998, a new Wisconsin law went into effect which provides new and stringent checks of the backgrounds of persons who provide care for others or have access to persons receiving care.

Beginning on October 1, 1998, the state of Wisconsin mandated that background checks will be required for all persons who seek to be employed in the caregiving industry and for all persons who want to obtain or renew a license to provide care. By October 1, 1999, all existing employees/contractors and license holders must have fulfilled the caregiver background check requirements.

A completed background check as prescribed under Wisconsin's law includes:

- * A completed self-disclosure Background Information Disclosure form;

- * An electronic status check of professional licenses and credentials through the Department of Regulation and Licensing;
- * An electronic criminal history search from the Wisconsin Department of Justice;
- * An electronic review of records kept by the Department of Health and Family Services for any substantiated findings of abuse or neglect and license restrictions or denials.

Based on the information obtained, additional research may include an out-of-state criminal history search, a tribal court criminal history search, a check of relevant military records or a check of county or other local records.

Once the background research is complete, employers and government agencies are expected to act according to the requirements of the new law coupled with prudent business practices. These new background checks will be used by the state in making employment and licensing decisions since various studies have shown predictable patterns of abuse, neglect and misappropriation. Therefore, a background which includes specific crimes and offenses will effectively exclude individuals from certain employment or prohibit them from obtaining a license to practice certain professions.

Those who wish to obtain more detailed information regarding the new law may do so through accessing the following web site: "www.dhfs.state.wi.us" and click on "News & Initiatives."

ALERT ALERT ALERT

The next renewal for acupuncture will be June 30, 1999. Renewal notices will be mailed about 6 weeks prior to that date. Please remember to include your Social Security Number on your renewal form.

ACUPUNCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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REGULATORY DIGEST

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Telephones

Automated Phone System for Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Massage therapists and Bodyworkers, Music, Art and Dance Therapists, Marriage & Family Therapists, Nursing, Optometry, Professional Counselors, Psychology, & Social Workers: (608) 266-0145

Press 1, then 4 **Application Requests for License & Continuing Education**

Press 2 **Information on Status of Pending Applications**

Press 3 **Information on Renewal, Verifications, Letters of Good Standing & Name or Address Changes**

Press 4 **Complaint Filing Information**

Press 5 **Application Questions**

Press 6 **Repeat Menu Choices**

FAX (608) 261-7083

Quick Keys

To request a credential application for your profession, just dial (608) 266-0145, then enter the Quick Keys number below for the profession you want:

Acupuncture Press 1-9

1999 Meeting Dates

April 27, July 27, October 26.

Verifications

All requests for verification of credential status must be in writing. There is no charge for this service.

Endorsements

Requests for endorsements to other states must be in writing. The cost is \$10. Please make check or money order payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Visit the Department's Web Site

<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/drl/>
Send comments to dorl@mail.state.wi.us

Digests on Web Site

January, 1998; June, 1998, September, 1998.

Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Acupuncture Advisory Committee Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered through the Bureau Office. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated November, 1998.

Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes are not automatically provided.

WIS. STATS. S. 440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

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